This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating a system <u>to perform a search</u> ~~including two or more search providers and a user interface~~, the method comprising:

receiving information from ~~one or more~~ <u>a plurality</u> of ~~the~~ search providers directed to query language features supported by the respective search providers;

transmitting the information received from the ~~one or more of the~~ search providers to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> user interface~~, wherein a certain one or more of query input fields within the user interface include the information received~~;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

parsing the query to define a <u>single common</u> parse tree <u>that is transformable by each of the respective search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers</u>;

passing the <u>single common</u> parse tree to ~~at least one of~~ the search providers;

<u>receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and</u>

<u>displaying the results</u>

~~transforming the parse tree based on the information received from a one of the search providers;~~

~~and conducting a search based on the transformed parse tree~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the ~~one or more of the~~ search providers ~~includes any one or more of~~ <u>is at least one member of a group comprising</u> data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein passing the <u>single</u>

<u>common</u> parse tree to ~~at least one of~~ the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by

value to one of the search providers.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising electronically

transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising copying at least a

portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

7.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a graphical user interface having input fields for defining a query;

~~two or more search providers;~~

means for interrogating and receiving information indicating ~~one or more~~ query

language features supported by ~~properties from one or more of the~~ <u>a plurality of</u> search

providers;

means for transmitting the information received to the user interface~~, the user~~

~~interface populating a certain one or more input fields with the information received~~;

means for receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

means for parsing the query to define a ~~first~~ <u>single common</u> parse tree <u>that is</u>

<u>transformable by each of the search providers based on the query language features supported</u>

<u>by each of the respective search providers</u>;

means for passing the <u>single common</u> parse tree to ~~at least one of~~ the search

providers;

<u>means for receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and</u>

<u>means for displaying the results</u>

~~means for deriving a second parse tree based on query properties of one of the search~~

~~providers; and~~

~~means for searching a database based on the second parse tree~~.

8-45   (Canceled)

46.   (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the information received from the providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

47.   (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to query language features supported by the respective search providers;

transmitting the information received from the search providers to a user interface;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

parsing the query to define a single common parse tree that is transformable by each of the respective search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers;

passing the single common parse tree to the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from the search providers; and

displaying the results.

48.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

49.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein passing the single common parse tree to the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

50.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 47, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

51.   (New) The method of claim 47, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

52.   (New) A method of operating a system to perform a search, the method comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

providing a user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on the different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;

passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and

displaying the results.

53.   (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

54.   (New) The method of claim 52, wherein passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

55.   (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

56.   (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.

57.   (New) A system comprising:

a graphical user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on different query language features supported by each of a plurality of search providers;

means for receiving information from the plurality of search providers directed to the different query language features supported by each of the search providers;

means for providing the user interface based on the information received from the search providers;

means for receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

means for parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;

means for passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers;

means for receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and

means for displaying the results.

58.   (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

59.   (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving information from a plurality of search providers directed to different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

providing a user interface comprising a single common set of query input fields generated based on the different query language features supported by each of the plurality of search providers;

receiving user input through the user interface to define a query;

parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers;

passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers;

receiving results for the executed query from at least one of the search providers; and

displaying the results.

60.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, wherein the information received from the search providers is at least one member of a group comprising data property names, query comparison operators, data object properties, operands for each of the comparison operators, syntactic data types, data value types, or localization information about display strings.

61.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, wherein passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers comprises passing the parse tree by value to one of the search providers.

62.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of electronically transferring at least a portion of the query to one or more other users.

63.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 59, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of copying at least a portion of the query to a repository for use by other users.